

**Vice Moderator's Report**  
**October 2014**

**GAPC Meeting Report**

I attended the September meeting of the General Assembly Planning Committee (GAPC). The theme for GA2014 will be "Building a New Way." This theme fits very well with the work that we are planning as a Board to discuss ideas of how we can transform governance / GA.

Jim and I agreed going into the planning meetings that we would request the same amount of General Session Time as we had available in 2014, and the Grid reflects this. There was some additional time added to assure that we have adequate time for the young adults to present several GA Talks videos in General Sessions. We had three bylaws amendments on the agenda for 2014 – this amount of plenary means that we will have be limited to 2 or 3 sets of bylaws amendments.

The deadline for submitting workshop proposals is November 3. The board has slots available for our use or for the Board committees. If you have an idea for a Board-sponsored workshop you should submit it to the GA office through the normal process and also send a copy to me.

You all received notification that Bart Frost resigned from the GAPC effective at the end of the September meeting as he accepted a position working for the UUA. Rev. Chip Rouse is the Acting Chair of the GAPC. This leaves two vacancies on the Planning Committee. Normally the Board would appoint to fill those positions. However, the GAPC has requested that we not do so at this time as they are organized to accomplish their work with the members they have now. If the GAPC really does not need the additional positions, we will want to consider how best to modify the bylaws to bring the number of positions into alignment with their practice and needs.

I was reminded at the GAPC meeting that, the Board is responsible for recruiting the Tellers we need at GA. If you have suggestions of individuals who would be good at this, please let either Jim Key or me know.

The Planning Committee had a very productive conversation about a forward looking vision for the roles and Structure of the Planning Committee. They began to talk about the GAPC as a place that provides overall policy and direction but with the bulk of the work being done by Committees they appoint. The Worship Arts Team and the Program Development Group are examples of how this has already been implemented for several key processes.

The GA Budget is included in the consent agenda for this meeting, and we need to approve it. There is a narrative included in the consent agenda that describes the various elements of the budget. The Planning Committee has recommended a \$15 increase in full-time adult registration fees, bringing the full-time registration rate for GA 2015 to \$350. The Planning Committee thought that it would be better to do an increase this year, with no increase for the Columbus General Assembly (2016).

The members of the GAPC are obviously very interested in the work that the Board is doing on Strengthening our Governance and GA. While much of what we are proposing goes well beyond the functioning of General Assembly. I committed to keep the GAPC along with the staff involved as we move forward.

### **Regions & Bylaws Changes**

James Snell and I met in September with the Presidents of the districts in the Southern Region when they met in Austin. The Southern Region District Presidents wanted to share with us their plans for a potential vote in in the Southern Region district assemblies next spring. They are considering a plan to dissolve the Southern Region district Boards. Scott Tayler has informed me that the Central East Region probably will probably hold a vote this coming spring to change their governance in arrangements. These changes will have implications for the UUA Bylaws that we may need to address at GA2015. In addition, other regions are likely to have votes in the coming years. We suggested that the District Presidents Association (DPA) work in time to put it on the agenda at our January meeting.

### **Other potential Bylaws Changes**

Tom Bean, our attorney, has proposed to develop a consolidated proposal with the understanding that ideally the Board will receive the proposal several potential bylaws or rules changes that we should consider for 2015. These are listed below with my comments in italics.

1. Should regions have the same privileges and responsibilities as districts? *This is the same issue raised above, which we plan to address in coordination with the DPA.*
2. Because all Trustees are now elected at large, the Board can, and should, delete Rule 6.4.1 with respect to “Division of Districts for Election Purposes” before next GA. *I will bring this forward for our January agenda.*
3. Amend Bylaw 4.11 to change the date in line 410 from February 1 to a date a few months earlier, at least with respect to proposed business resolutions. The reason is this: the bylaw currently provides that Business Resolutions must be submitted to the Board by February 1 to be placed on the tentative agenda at GA the following June. Yet, Rule G-4.18.3 requires certified congregations to report by February 1 on whether they recommend or do not recommend business resolutions for action by GA. Thus, unless the proponent of a business resolution actually submits the Business Resolution a few months before February 1, congregations will not have time to vote on it and report by February 1. *If we have time on the General Session agenda for this, we could do this in 2015. We can consider this in January when we have a good understanding on what other bylaws amendments are being proposed for 2015.*

Tom also identified a variety of changes needed in the GA Rules of Procedure. We will need to vote on those in January or March to make sure they are incorporated into the printed Final Agenda.

### **Annual Calendar**

We will be developing our two year calendar as part of our work together at the October meeting. I have attached the calendar we developed at our October 2013 meeting so that we have it as a starting point for our conversations.

## Attachment – Work plan Developed at October 2013 Board Meeting

### January 2014

Appoint committee to select Distinguished Service Award Recipient (Jim)

New Board photo

Select location for January 2015 meeting

Develop Preliminary business agenda for GA2014 (Jim)

- Do we want to bring any bylaws changes in 2014 beyond the two that are in their second year of consideration?

Ends Monitoring (Donna & Harlan)

- Full report not required
- Presentation from Eric Craymer
- Remainder of agenda dependent on work plan developed between Eric & the Steering Committee

Governance (Rob)

- Update on process to review policies
- Exec Limitations Monitoring Reports for Approval pending update of monitoring schedule approved 10/14
  - Policies 2.4, 2.5, 2.7.1, 2.7.2, 2.7.7, 2.10
- Board self evaluation on policies 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7

ARAOMC (Julian)

- ARAOMC Education
- Report from Administration on the activities they were called to do in the 2012 Responsive Resolution (Taquienna Boston)
  - Name task force (if needed)
- Update on plans for addressing the 2009 Responsive Resolution on Youth.
  - Update from Administration on their strategies and activities.
  - Name task force (if needed)

Finance Committee (Sarah)

- Approve Committee Budgets
- Develop Board Budget

Transforming Governance (Donna)

- Begin to discuss specific proposals. Any additional information needed?

Linkage (Susan W)

- Agree on any linkage work plan and deep questions
- Update linkage with sources operational definition
- Any plans for linkage with delegates during spring of 2014 in preparation for GA?

Note: The Board will have received and reviewed the audit in November

## April 2014

### Ends Monitoring (Donna & Harlan)

- Next step in process agreed to by Eric Craymer & Steering Committee

### Governance (Rob)

- Policy Review Results & proposal based on their work plan
- Tentative schedule for Exec Limitations Monitoring Reports for Approval pending update of monitoring schedule approved 10/14
  - Monitoring Reports due: 2.13, 2.14. Note that Policy 2.13 is monitored by direct inspection. The operational definitions were approved across several meetings in 2013. Also, 2.13.9 is scheduled for later in the year – do we want to consolidate it with this report or have it separate?
- Board Self Evaluation: 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.0, 4.1

### Committees (Sarah)

- Follow up from Committees task group formed in October:
  - What do we want to do about committee reports to the Board (Policy 3.8?)
  - Update on process to review committee structure
- Follow up on conversation about Open UUA. How to bring alive in committees? Any changes needed?

### Finance Committee (Sarah)

- Approve FY 2015 Budget, Approve FY 2016 budget (or “accept?”)
- Update on Health Plan

### Planning for GA (Jim)

- Approve FY 2015 Budget
- Select winner of Distinguished Service Award
- Any updates to the Business Agenda
  - Any update to delegates regarding 2009 Responsive Resolution on youth?
  - Update to delegates regarding 2013 Responsive Resolution on AROAMC?
  - Board statement regarding any proposed bylaws changes or business resolutions
  - Report from Board

### ARAOMC (Julian)

- ARAOMC Education
- Next steps in responding to issues raised in 2009 Youth Responsive Resolution
- Next steps in responding to issues raised in 2013 AROCMC Resolution
- Hear from congregations that are truly welcoming and multicultural?

Transforming GA (Donna)

- Frame up conversation for GA

Linkage (Susan W)

- Develop plans for linkage to be done at GA
- Follow up on plans for linking with delegates prior to GA

## **June 2014**

Congregational Boundaries (Natty)

- First report / discussion with the Board on Congregational Boundaries process

ARAOMC (Julian)

- Learnings / recommendations from youth/young adults task force?

GA Planning (Jim)

- Rehearse statements that will be presented in plenary

Governance (Rob)

- Next steps in Policy Review?
- Review monitoring report for policy 2.12 (Election campaign practices)
- Board evaluation on policies 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5

Transforming Governance (Donna)

- Finalize plans for Trustee participation

Post GA meeting:

- Identify any action items for the Board coming out of GA
- New Board photo

## **October 2014**

Update Board 24 month calendar / work plan (Donna)

AROAMC training (Julian)

Governance (Rob)

- Tentative schedule for Exec Limitations Monitoring Reports for Approval pending update of monitoring schedule approved 10/14

- Policies 2.1, 2.7.3, 2.7.4, 2.7.5, 2.7.6, 2.11 and 2.13.9. Note that the reports for policies 2.1 and 2.11 had been scheduled for review in 2013, but due to confusion about the monitoring schedule (Fiscal year versus calendar year) they were delayed to 2014.
- Board self-evaluation: Policies 3.0, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.11

Transforming GA (Donna)

- If business portions of GA 2015 are going to be significantly different, need to make some decisions in October so that the planning committee and others can begin to prepare.

Committees (Sarah)

- TBD

**January 2015**

Appoint committee to select Distinguished Service Award winner (Jim)

Committees (Sarah)

- Bylaws changes relative to Article V and Article VII committees on Tentative Agenda

Transforming GA (Donna)

- Any bylaws or G rules changes needed to implement vision of transformed GA need to go on the Tentative Agenda

Finance Committee (Sarah)

- Approve Committee Budgets
- Develop Board Budget

ARAOMC (Julian)

- Board education

Governance (Rob)

- Tentative schedule for Exec Limitations Monitoring Reports for Approval pending update of monitoring schedule approved 10/14
  - Policies 2.7, 2.7.2, 2.7.7
- Ends Monitoring Report Discussion (1.0)
- Board self-evaluation on policies 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7

Linkage (Susan W)

- TBD

Note: The Board will have received and reviewed the audit in November

**April 2015**

Finance Committee (Sarah)

- Approve FY 2016 budget & approve / accept FY 2017 budget

ARAOMC training (Julian)

Linkage (Susan W)

Governance (Rob)

- Tentative schedule for Exec Limitations Monitoring Reports for Approval pending update of monitoring schedule approved 10/14
  - Policies 2.13 and 2.14
- Board Self Evaluation: 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.0, 4.1

Select Distinguished Service Award winner

Appoint Board members for speaking roles at GA

Finalize GA Agenda

### **June 2015**

Rehearse Board statements for GA

GA vote on bylaws changes relative to Committees and transforming GA

Recognize those who have served on district boards?

Governance (Rob)

- Tentative schedule for Exec Limitations Monitoring Reports for Approval pending update of monitoring schedule approved 10/14
  - Policies 2.0 and 2.9
  - Board evaluation on policies 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5

### **October 2015**

Update 24 month Board Calendar / work plan TBD

ARAOMC Education (Julian)

Governance (Rob)

- Tentative schedule for Exec Limitations Monitoring Reports for Approval pending update of monitoring schedule approved 10/14
  - Policy 2.3
  - Board self-evaluation: Policies 3.0, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.11